

SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 155

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 4, 2019

The Senate Commerce Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 155.

This resolution condemns the United States Department of Homeland Security's proposed rule amending the regulations issued pursuant to the "Immigration and Nationality Act" to allow the consideration of credit reports and scores in immigration decisions. The proposed rule perverts the original purpose of credit reports and scores, which were designed as tools for lenders to evaluate the probability that potential borrowers will repay their debts. The use of credit reports and scores in immigration decisions is inappropriate because 1) credit reports are only available in English and contain no information about an individual's income or earnings, and 2) many immigrants have not been in the United States long enough to develop extensive credit histories. Moreover, the use of credit reports and scores in any context, let alone in immigration decisions, is problematic in light of a comprehensive 2012 study by the Federal Trade Commission finding that one in five American consumers had at least one error on their credit report.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to clarify that the concurrent resolution condemns the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's proposed rule amending the regulations issued pursuant to section 212(a)(4) of the "Immigration and Nationality Act" to allow the consideration of credit reports and scores in immigration decisions.